

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TC 1700

In Re Application of: Muthiah, et al.

Serial No.: 09/982,342

Filed: October 18, 2001

For: HIGHLY ABSORBENT PRODUCTS
AND PROCESS FOR MAKING
SUCH PRODUCTS

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Norca L. Torres-Velazquez

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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JANUARY 13, 2004
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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This letter is responsive to the restriction requirement set forth in the outstanding Office
Action of December 17, 2003.

In such Office Action, the Examiner required Applicant to provisionally elect between the
Group I process invention (claims 1-24, 50-54, 69-72, and 75-80) and the Group II product
invention (claims 25-49, 55-57, 64-68, and 73-74). Moreover, Applicant was required to
provisionally elect between patentably distinct species of polymeric material identified as: a)
superabsorbent & non-superabsorbent polymers (as related to claims 26-27 and 32) and b)
foamed (as related to claims 28, 34-35, and 44).

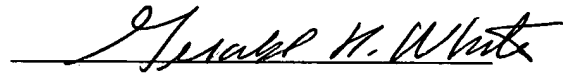
Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the Group II invention, claims 25-
49, 55-57, 64-68, and 73-74.

Applicant also hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of specie a).
Applicant considers that claims 25-27, 29-33, 36-43, 45-49, 55-57, 64-68, and 73-74 constitute
all elected claims readable on specie a).

Applicant respectfully requests a prompt action on the merits of the elected invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 13, 2004



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